

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of determining cardiovascular risk in a person without cardiovascular disease or without a diagnosis thereof, the method comprising the step of:

determining a test MIF concentration in the blood, saliva or urine of the person as a marker of cardiovascular risk for the person, wherein an elevated test MIF concentration compared with a control MIF concentration ~~not associated with cardiovascular risk~~ indicates that the person is subject to elevated cardiovascular risk, and a further step selected from the group consisting of: (a) assigning to the person a cardiovascular risk metric in accordance with the test MIF concentration; (b) prescribing for the person a cardiovascular treatment modality in accordance with the test MIF concentration; and (c) making an additional assessment of cardiovascular risk of the person in accordance with the test MIF concentration, the additional assessment selected from the group consisting of a stress test, a CRP assay and an LDL assay.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the further step comprises assigning to the person a cardiovascular risk metric in accordance with the test MIF concentration.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the further step comprises prescribing for the person a cardiovascular treatment modality in accordance with the test MIF concentration.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the further step comprises making an additional assessment of cardiovascular risk of the person in accordance with the test MIF concentration, the additional assessment selected from the group consisting of a stress test, a CRP assay and an LDL assay.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step is repeated over time intervals to monitor change in cardiovascular risk for the person over time.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step is repeated over treatment to monitor change in cardiovascular risk for the person over treatment.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for characterizing a risk of developing a future cardiovascular disorder in an ~~apparently healthy~~ individual, the method comprising steps:
- obtaining a test MIF level in the blood, saliva or urine of the individual,
 - comparing the test MIF level to a predetermined control MIF value, and
 - characterizing the individual's risk of developing the future cardiovascular disorder based upon the test MIF level in comparison to the predetermined control MIF value.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the predetermined control MIF value is a plurality of predetermined MIF level ranges and the comparing step comprises determining in which of the predetermined MIF level ranges the individual's test MIF level falls.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the individual is ~~apparently healthy but~~ statistically overweight or obese.
10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the cardiovascular disorder is selected from the group consisting of stroke and myocardial infarction.
- 11-14. (canceled)
15. (Previously Presented) A method for evaluating the likelihood that an individual will benefit from treatment with an agent for reducing the risk of a cardiovascular disorder, the method comprising steps:
- obtaining a test MIF level in the blood, saliva or urine of the individual, and
 - comparing the test MIF level to a predetermined control MIF value,
 - wherein the test MIF level in comparison to the predetermined control MIF value is indicative of whether the individual will benefit from treatment with said agent.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the predetermined control MIF value is a plurality of predetermined MIF concentration ranges and the comparing step comprises

determining in which of the predetermined MIF concentration ranges the individual's test MIF level falls.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the individual is ~~apparently healthy~~ ~~but~~ statistically overweight or obese.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the cardiovascular disorder is selected from the group consisting of stroke and myocardial infarction.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the agent is aspirin.